



# THE GATEWAY



volume C1 number 41 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, march 22, 2011

inside

POKÉMON  
BLACK  
VERSION

## Gotta catch 'em all over again

Stephen Cook reviews the latest video game installments in the everlasting Pokémon franchise.

A&E, PAGE 10



## Sorrow for slates

Ryan Bromsgrove examines the Students' Union's continuing failure to run this year's elections smoothly and how this impacts their image among the student body.

OPINION, PAGE 6

## A freshman start

During her first year on campus, Court Panda Sally Hillier faced the pressures usually reserved for a veteran, all without blinking an eye.

SPORTS, PAGE 13



AARON YEO

**CLEANED SLATES** After a CRO ruling declaring same-faculty slates against bylaw, SUPA member Aditya Rao (left) unsuccessfully appealed the decision.

## Same-faculty election slates disbanded

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor

Two slates in the Students' Council elections have been disbanded with only two days left of campaigning.

The Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board ruled Monday night that having candidates run in a slate in the same faculty race qualifies as endorsement, which violates bylaw.

The two candidates from the Shared Science Platform (SSP) have had their slate disbanded. The Students United for Progressive Action (SUPA) slate must disband their wing in the Faculty of Arts, which has six candidates. However, the ruling leaves open the possibility for candidates to form slates as long as they are running in different faculties, allowing the sole SUPA candidates in the Faculté Saint-Jean and Engineering to remain a part of the slate.

A concern over endorsement and slates was first submitted to the DIE Board last Friday, specifically about the fact that SU bylaws don't specifically exempt slates from bylaws limiting candidates from endorsing other candidates in the same race. The board ruled that this means slates couldn't include more than one candidate per faculty.

According to a ruling by the Chief Returning Officer early on Monday, SUPA candidates had to remove any campaign materials that mentioned the slate due to these bylaws. Campaigning for the election ends Wednesday, and voting for Students' Council elections will begin Thursday morning.

Speaking at that time, CRO Alena Manera said that she felt sympathy for SUPA's concerns.

"It's not that bylaw says you can't

have a slate within a faculty, it's just that bylaw is silent on the issue," Manera said, explaining that she felt she needed to appeal to the guidance of DIE Board. "The timing isn't ideal for the Elections Office [and] it isn't ideal for the slate. If anything, I'm sympathetic to them, because they fell victim to a bad bylaw."

After the CRO's ruling, SUPA candidate Aditya Rao appealed the decision to the DIE Board, arguing that this left the affected candidates little time to mount a new campaign.

**"We are the victims of all this — when you're playing a game, for someone to change it halfway through, it is terribly unfair."**

PETROS KUSMU  
SUPA CANDIDATE

"This [CRO] ruling comes at a time when more than half the campaign period has expired, making it extremely difficult for voters to make an informed decision," Rao said in his appeal to DIE Board, explaining that the ruling would place SUPA candidates at a disadvantage with little time to campaign. "[It] gives all other candidates an unfair advantage, undermining the very democratic process DIE Board seeks to preserve and leaving this election, in the Board's own words, 'irreparably tainted.'"

SUPA candidate Petros Kusmu felt it was "unfair" to disband the slates at this point in the election.

PLEASE SEE **SLATES** ♦ PAGE 3  
ALSO SEE **COMMENTARY** ♦ PAGE 6

## All students able to switch email to Google Apps

AARON YEO  
News Protégé

The University of Alberta opened the floodgates on Monday, inviting all student webmail users to officially switch over to Google.

"We're opening it up to 38,000 students," said Jonathan Schaeffer, Vice-Provost (Information Technology), who originally announced the change to Google Apps in December 2010. Along with online announcements in E-Class, webmail, and the U of A website, booths were set up in HUB and SUB to help people with the change.

"We're just letting everyone know in every way that we can, that we want you to move."

According to Schaeffer, the change should be simple and take a few minutes. If students make the switch before April 29, they'll be entered in a draw for TVs and iPads. Those who don't move now will still be able to until October 1. After that time, Webmail will no longer work and students will automatically be switched to Google.

Along with the Gmail interface, staff and students will also be able to use Google Apps products such as Google Docs. Next year, E-Class will also move to Moodle, which is already fully integrated into Google, according to Schaeffer.

"Webmail is a terrible interface, and it doesn't support calendaring, it doesn't support chat, and it doesn't support all sorts of things. By moving to Google, we're piggybacking on a company that's introducing leading-edge tools."

As part of the testing process, about 2,800 students have already migrated their accounts, as part of pilot projects to work out the kinks.

"We wanted to see what problems they had, and whether the HelpDesk could help them out with any issues. A lot of testing went into it," Schaeffer said.

While there are some short-term costs associated with the process of actually moving over, Schaeffer said that in the long run, the change will save the university the operating costs associated with email.

"These are difficult financial times. Google can do things on a scale that we can't even imagine," Schaeffer explained. "We're getting out of the email business. We have 81 email systems on campus. That 81 is going down to one, and that one is going to be provided by Google."

Moving to Google means email will be hosted on servers in the United States. In response to privacy concerns, the university signed a contract with Google to ensure confidentiality.

"[A year-and-a-half] was spent in intense negotiations with Google to come up with a contract that respects the privacy and security of the University of Alberta."

"If you've already got a Gmail.com address, that's public Gmail. You get advertising, you get data mining, you have no security and no privacy protection. We have Google Apps for Education. Part of the contract is no advertising and no data mining."

Lakehead University is the only other institution in Canada to switch over entirely, but they don't have a contract with Google. Schaeffer believes that in the near future, many other universities and colleges will make a similar switch, either to Google or Microsoft.

"The vision is one uniform environment. Google just happens to be part of it."



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## colophon

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Skybox by Dan McKechnie

# Accounting Club files taxes free-of-charge

Business students use what they learn in class to provide a cheaper alternative to larger companies

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

This tax season, the University of Alberta Accounting Club (UAAC) expects to save students \$75,000 in professional services, garnering more than \$1 million in tax refunds for those who walk into the clinic.

For the past 16 years the UAAC has offered a free tax clinic to help students and low-income individuals file their taxes, giving volunteers the opportunity to contribute to the university community.

"We're accountants and we have skills that we can use to help out the community. Seeing people's faces after they leave is just very rewarding," said Ryan Chiew, the clinic's director. "You're helping somebody out. These are all very low-income individuals, some of them have very sad stories, and some of them have been in very difficult situations. They could be going to H&R Block, but it [costs] 40 bucks. For somebody with low income, that could be a lot of money; it could mean meals for a week."

The annual tax clinic held by the UAAC is the third largest in Edmonton, handling more than 2,100 returns in a three-week span. In total, the clinic utilizes the skills of 150 volunteers, primarily students from the U of A Faculty of Business, who log more than 3,500 volunteer hours.



MATT HIRJI

**HITTIN' THE BOOKS** The UAAC filed taxes to practise their bookkeeping skills in the Business Atrium until March 19.

As Chiew explains, while the program is labour intensive, it is an excellent chance for the volunteers to apply their knowledge of tax accounting in the real world while passing on some of their classroom experiences to their clients.

"Taxes are confusing; it's hard to do it by yourself. For the student volunteers it's great so that they can apply the skills that they've already learned. For the clients who are coming in,

it's an opportunity to save a little bit of money and they have the opportunity for somebody to sit down with them," he said. "We try not just to do people's taxes, but also to give them a bit of an education about how taxes work, so that sometime in the future, maybe when they aren't low income, they will have a bit of a starting point of where to go."

For Aravind Akella, a mechanical engineering student at the

university, the tax clinic provided him with a convenient and cheaper option than the alternatives. And for a student with stresses on both his time and money, the free service is an invaluable resource.

"It's the easier way to fill out my taxes. It's cheaper as well," Akella explained. "I live close to the university and if I did it elsewhere, I would have to go downtown to H&R Block or something."

# STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Scott Fenwick and Aaron Yeo



**Garry Wong**  
Graduate Studies



**Luke Donnan**  
ALES II



**Smit Patel**  
Science IV



**Amber Maxwell**  
Physical  
Education IV

As you may be aware, the *Five Days for the Homeless* campaign just ended. **Where was the weirdest place you've ever slept?**

Probably outside my house. Not that weird. [Why?] I just couldn't get in. I left my keys, and it was really late at night, so I couldn't exactly call a locksmith.

I don't know, there's a few. I guess one would be the cement floor of my garage, and one was actually up in a tree. [Why?] That I'm not sure about yet. It was quite a night.

Pretty much at the airport. It wasn't really that weird, but I've never slept in an airport before, so it's kind of weird for me. [Why were you sleeping in the airport?] The flight was like nine hours delayed and we didn't have a hotel or anything, so we had to lay down on chairs. It was really uncomfortable.

Not too sure. There's not too many weird ones, actually. Yeah, it's in my bedroom, on the floor. Probably on the floor, I guess. Unfortunately, that's the weirdest. [Why the floor?] My fiancé's parents stayed over. Because we were nice, and let them sleep in the bed. So that's the weirdest, I guess. That's all I can give you, or at least that's all I can remember.



**Addictions come in many different forms, from the stereotypical drug addictions to more subtle, yet equally destructive behavioural compulsions such as addictions to food or sex.**

# THE GATEWAY

Watch The Gateway on Thursday for a more in-depth discussion on addictions as part of our ongoing Mental Health series.



# Business students spend a week in the cold

With no showers or beds, Five Days for the Homeless participants raised awareness, food, and donations

APRIL HUDSON  
News Writer

Edmonton business students got a taste of sleeping on the streets last week to raise awareness for homeless youth in Edmonton during the Five Days for the Homeless campaign.

The eight students involved slept outside the Alberta School of Business building for five nights, having no access to showers and being allowed to eat only food that was directly given to them. However, they could

only eat perishable items, and had to donate any canned or pre-prepared foods. The rules allowed them a pillow, sleeping bag, and the clothes on their back, which could be traded for an emergency meal if necessary.

The campaign is an annual charity event that ran this year from March 12-18. The funds raised were donated to the Youth Emergency Shelter Society (YESS), which helps homeless youth in Edmonton between the ages of 15 and 21.

“It’s been exhausting,” said

Kimberley Menard, one of the participants. “It’s a little cold out, and it got a little wet last night with the frost, but the response from the community and the school’s been huge, so it’s been really inspiring. We’re super motivated right now.”

Menard is the event chair and was convinced to take part after reading about the previous years’ participants.

“I went through the last two years of blogs, and it was emotional, and it was amazing — the stuff that they experienced, the stuff that they

witnessed, and the people they talked to. I was really touched by that.”

Menard said that the event really hit home for a lot of them, since the youth that YESS helps are generally in the same age group as undergraduate students. But Menard said the hardest thing for the campaign so far has been trying to change people’s minds about homelessness.

“Homelessness is a controversial issue,” Menard said. “But it’s never a youth’s fault they’re in a bad situation. We’re just trying to give them a chance at a successful future.”

“A lot of people see homeless people on the street and think that these people just made bad choices,” said Harry Chandler, another participant. “They don’t have a choice to be where they are. Realizing that these children can be 15 years old is heartbreaking.”

Chandler and Menard agreed that simply visiting YESS had opened their eyes to the need in the community for more awareness about youth homelessness. Chandler encouraged students to just go and visit YESS, and donate to the cause.

The event raised more than \$21,000 at the University of Alberta by the time it ended on Friday night. The national total was almost \$200,000 this year. The campaign was founded seven years ago by three University of Alberta business students, who raised \$2,000 at the time, four times their target. It has since spread to campuses across Canada, including the University of British Columbia and Carleton University in Ottawa.

# Ex-slate members to run separately

SLATES ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We are the victims of all this — when you’re playing a game, for someone to change it halfway through it is terribly unfair. You should change it after, or before,” Kusmu said.

Kusmu noted that slates were allowed in last year’s elections and SUPA was allowed to register and campaign at the outset of this election as a slate. He expressed surprise that, despite the elections bylaws being reviewed for the last two years, it was only midway through the current election that anyone found a problem with the slate section of the bylaw.

However, ALES Councillor Natalie Cox, an intervener in the appeal, said before the decision that she felt slates within the same faculty were “an abuse of democracy.”

“It wouldn’t have been within my ethical bounds to run in a slate this year, given that council had previously indicated that running on a slate in the same faculty is not democratically sound,” she said.

Jeffrey Kochikuzhyil, from the SSP slate, said during the appeal he felt the decision would increase apathy.

“This is how bureaucratic the SU is. All it’s going to do is turn people off from voting.”

ALSO SEE COMMENTARY ♦ PAGE 6



KAITLYN MENARD

**DOWN-AND-OUT** Eight business students spent five nights sleeping outside on campus, raising almost \$21,000.

## CANDIDATES LISTS

Invest just a few minutes to make an informed decision.

### 2011 SU COUNCIL ELECTIONS

THE SU’S STUDENTS’ COUNCIL runs your businesses, represent your interests to government, and ensure you get the most out of your academic experience. It decides how the SU spends its \$10

#### Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences • 1 Seat Available

- Andrew Fehr

#### Arts • 6 Seats Available

- Elauna Boutwell
- Dillon Gara
- Zafir Kanji
- Brent Kelly
- Navneet Khinda
- Petros Kusmu
- Jessica Macumber
- Kelsey Mills
- Aditya Rao
- Gabriel Tremblay
- Adam Woods
- Chaka Zinyemba

#### Business • 2 Seats Available

- Samaar Haider
- Colten Yamagishi

#### Education • 3 Seats Available

- Mallory McMurtrie
- Vanessa Johnson
- Donovan Lovely
- Britney Luimes

#### Engineering • 4 Seats Available

- Lyndon Crone
- Ahmed Elmallah (Students United For Progressive Action, SUPA)
- Aaron Eslinger
- Adam Gulyas
- Saadiq Sumar

#### Law • 1 Seat Available

- Scott Nicol

million annual budget, what events are held on campus, and offers students a chance to sit on influential boards and committees.

#### Medicine & Dentistry • 1 Seat Available

- Rebecca Gould

#### Native Studies • 1 Seat Available

- Jake Archie

#### Nursing • 1 Seat Available

- Eric Bellinger

#### Open Studies • 1 Seat Available

- Joshua Le

#### Physical Education & Recreation • 1 Seat Available

- Susan Amer

#### Pharmacy • 1 Seat Available

- Marla Palakkamanil
- Sarah Zhao

#### Faculté Saint-Jean • 1 Seat Available

- Kinnar Power (Students United For Progressive Action, SUPA)

#### Science • 7 Seats Available

- Amelie Roberto Charron
- Kim Ferguson
- Victor Foroutanpay
- Eric Jung
- Avinash Karuvellil
- Elnur Kasumov
- Natasha Kedia
- Jeffrey Kochikuzhyil
- Su Su Liang
- Patrick Lo
- Brett MacGillivray
- Nicholas Monfries
- Michael Ron Martyna
- Arun Thomas
- Michael Parkes
- Peter West

### 2011 GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL ELECTIONS

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL student councilors represent undergraduates at the university level. The GFC is the legislative body of the University of Alberta, dealing with all academic matters and student affairs issues (as set out in the Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act). It is the highest body at

which academic decisions are made, and is chaired by the President of the University of Alberta.

In the past, GFC has dealt with issues such as class cancellation policies, the use and implementation of e-Class, and pushing back the Add/Drop deadline in the University Calendar.

#### Arts • 8 seats available

- Emily Fung
- Ann Gordon
- Nikolas Kalantzis
- Zafir Kanji
- Petros Kusmu
- Jessica Macumber
- Gabriel Tremblay

#### Business • 3 seats available

- Harry Chandler
- Christina Wolinski
- Colten Yamagishi

#### Education • 4 seats available

- Donovan Lovely
- Britney Luimes

#### Engineering • 5 seats available

- Lyndon Crone
- Kevin Jacobson
- Heidi Johnson
- Ranek Kiil

- Tyler Heal
- Christopher Rogers
- Saadiq Sumar
- Arnold Yu

#### Law • 1 seat available

- Scott Nicol

#### Physical Education • 1 seat available

- Susan Amer

#### Faculté Saint-Jean • 1 seat available

- Spencer Dunn

#### Science • 8 seats available

- Sabin J. Bozso
- Stephanie D’Agostini
- Kim Ferguson
- Victor Foroutanpay
- Jeffrey Kochikuzhyil
- Thomas L’Abbe
- Su Su Liang
- Nicholas Monfries
- Michael Parkes



### 2011 VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE RE-ELECTION

THE VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE) is responsible for university-related non-academic issues including: campus programming, university non-academic advocacy, the

U-pass, Health & Dental Plan, and SU Student Services. The VP SL is involved in everything from residence issues to planning Week of Welcome.

- David McBean
- Colten Yamagishi

## COUNCIL & VP SL ELECTIONS MARCH 24&25



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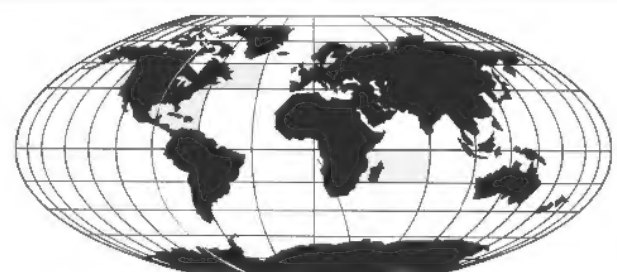


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## THE GATEWAY

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**The Gateway is accepting applications for the Staff Reporter position for the 2011/2012 publishing year.**

The term runs from May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012.

The paid portion of the job runs from mid-August 2011 to the end of April 2012. The staff reporter will be expected to train on at least three summer issues for an honorarium of \$115/issue.

At its full capacity, the salary for the Staff Reporter will be \$726.69 per month.



Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to Gateway Business Manager:  
**Ashleigh Brown**  
(780) 492-6669  
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca  
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Application deadline | 5 pm • March 24th, 2011

\* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.  
\*\* Complete job description (subject to change) is available at [www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj](http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj)

# Researcher draws links between genius and prenatal testosterone

HAYLEY DUNNING  
News Staff

Savant-style genius may be affected by the amount of testosterone you receive in the womb, according to a new University of Alberta study.

The roots of extraordinary genius have long been the subject of a nature versus nurture debate, but educational psychology professor Martin Mrazik thinks that prenatal conditions may be the determining factor.

"We can't underestimate the power of nature. Some things may be very biological in nature, and no matter how hard we try to develop a genius, maybe it's not really the way to go about it," Mrazik said.

Mrazik and his colleague from Rider University in New Jersey recently linked prenatal testosterone exposure to children with high levels of precociousness — the presence of above-average mental capabilities at an early age. The pair used advanced techniques such as functional MRI scans to investigate how the brain works.

"Testosterone seems to influence the right hemisphere. That's where our math, science, reasoning, and abstract thinking take place [...] We found a lot of evidence to suggest that in very precocious kids, [they] have very highly developed brain networks in the right frontal lobes of their brain."

Mrazik also found that precocious children were found to have a higher incidence of short-sightedness and allergies, conditions which may also be associated with more exposure to testosterone in the prenatal environment.

"This hypothesis of exposure to testosterone seems to make sense, and it seems in some cases where we see these children who have clear patterns of advanced math and reasoning, but that they also have some of these other disorders and allergies and so on," he said.

While this research adds weight to the idea that genius has more to do



SUPPLIED

**WHIZ KIDS** Testosterone exposure in the womb may influence early intelligence.

with nature than with nurture, it may not be hard-wired into our genetics. What affects the levels of testosterone received by a fetus is uncertain, although some environmental conditions may play a part, such as stress.

Mrazik also noted that advancement in one area of the brain can mean that other skills are underdeveloped. The research is still in its early stages, and Mrazik is certainly not advocating for pregnant women to artificially enhance their testosterone levels, especially considering the potential negatives. He explained that in many cases, savant-like genius is associated with learning disorders such as Asperger's Syndrome or autism.

"It may explain why the highly precocious people are not good communicators. It's because their language skills have not developed or perhaps have even been suppressed."

In the prenatal environment, testosterone influences how cells connect with each other, thus determining how brain networks are set up. According to Mrazik, this may affect the connection between the right and left sides of the brain, pruning more of the connections than would otherwise develop normally.

Mrazik wants to extend the research to see if this is also associated with genius, and to confirm the link between testosterone and advanced thinking skills.

# Visiting German professor tackles the role of nature in the humanities

HAYLEY DUNNING  
News Staff

Humanities do not take nature into account often enough when considering historical cultural changes, said Christof Mauch in a talk Thursday at the University of Alberta.

"What insight can the humanities gain by the power of nature? We will have to break down the boundaries between the humanities and sciences, [and] territorial and national boundaries."

This was the plan for environmental historians unveiled by Mauch, the director of the Rachel Carson Centre for Environment and Society in Germany, which study the environmental humanities.

He spoke at the law centre about the future of a relatively young discipline that began with marine biologist and conservation activist Rachel Carson, who first documented the destructive power of humanity on the natural environment in the 1960s.

Mauch is concerned that as we increasingly integrate culture and nature, we risk losing sight of the

message of what he calls the negative power of humans.

"Nature is the driving force of history. Perhaps it was the accelerated pace of economic, technical, social, and cultural changes during the 19th century that first excluded the natural aspect and the relative constancy of nature as a way of explaining change," Mauch said.

History is littered with examples of culture and nature influencing each other, whether intentional or not. Mauch pointed to the import of bluegrass to the U.S., which allowed for the proliferation of wheat that has shaped much of the landscape and history of the country.

On the other hand, events such as the eruption of Santorini, Greece destroyed the ancient Minoan culture, and the path of Japan's future will be inevitably shaped in part by the recent disaster.

"This opinionated-ness is something which we in the humanities need to cultivate if we want to move forward. Incorporating nature in the dialogue between disciplines produces this kind of opinionated-ness."

Interdisciplinary research is an important factor in creating a future for the discipline of environmental history according to Mauch, but the crossing of boundaries requires more than building a bridge between humanities and science.

Assessing human impact on the environment also requires ignoring geopolitical boundaries. One method Mauch suggests for achieving this is to write histories of animals and phenomena rather than countries.

"Writing histories like this, I think, would be totally ignorant of boundaries," he said. "Why not write the history of snow? What we can do in the snow and what we can't do in the snow is extremely important in the Cold War, for example, and for technology of the Arctic. We can look at the way snow is set up and what it does to culture."

Mauch stated several times in his address that it is his belief that everyone has a soft spot for the environment, especially in the modern age and regardless of political allegiance. He also thinks the future of the discipline should foster this belief.



## Apple indecisive on iPhone app censorship

THERE ARE IPHONE APPS FOR ABSOLUTELY everything — well, everything except porn. Indeed, an iPhone app can now help you rid yourself of unwanted same-sex attraction. Exodus International, a group that claims to be able to cure people of their homosexuality, has launched a free app. The mobile application has attracted a lot of criticism, and some opponents are demanding Apple remove it. Ultimately, Apple's decision to allow the app highlights the fact that the company's decisions to reject or approve programs seems completely random.

Apple's guidelines for developers state that "applications must not contain any obscene, pornographic, offensive or defamatory content or materials of any kind [...] or other content or materials that in Apple's reasonable judgment may be found objectionable by iPhone or iPod Touch users."

iPhone users certainly seem to have found Exodus' app offensive, as more than 120,000 users have signed an online petition demanding it be removed. In fact, in November, Apple yanked an app version of the "Manhattan Declaration," a statement users could digitally sign to state their support for "sanctity of life," "traditional marriage," and "religious freedom." Apple bowed to pressure from another online petition, this one signed by a mere 7,000 people, which called for the app's removal, claiming it was anti-gay.

There have been numerous apps rejected or removed from Apple's online store since the iPhone was introduced in 2007. Apple has a strict no-porn policy, and they've rejected or removed multiple apps with sexual content, including some that didn't seem so offensive — the relatively tame iBoob, an app that simulated a pair of jiggling, digitized breasts, was removed from the store in 2008. An official South Park app was also banned for objectionable content, despite the fact that the entire television series is available from iTunes.

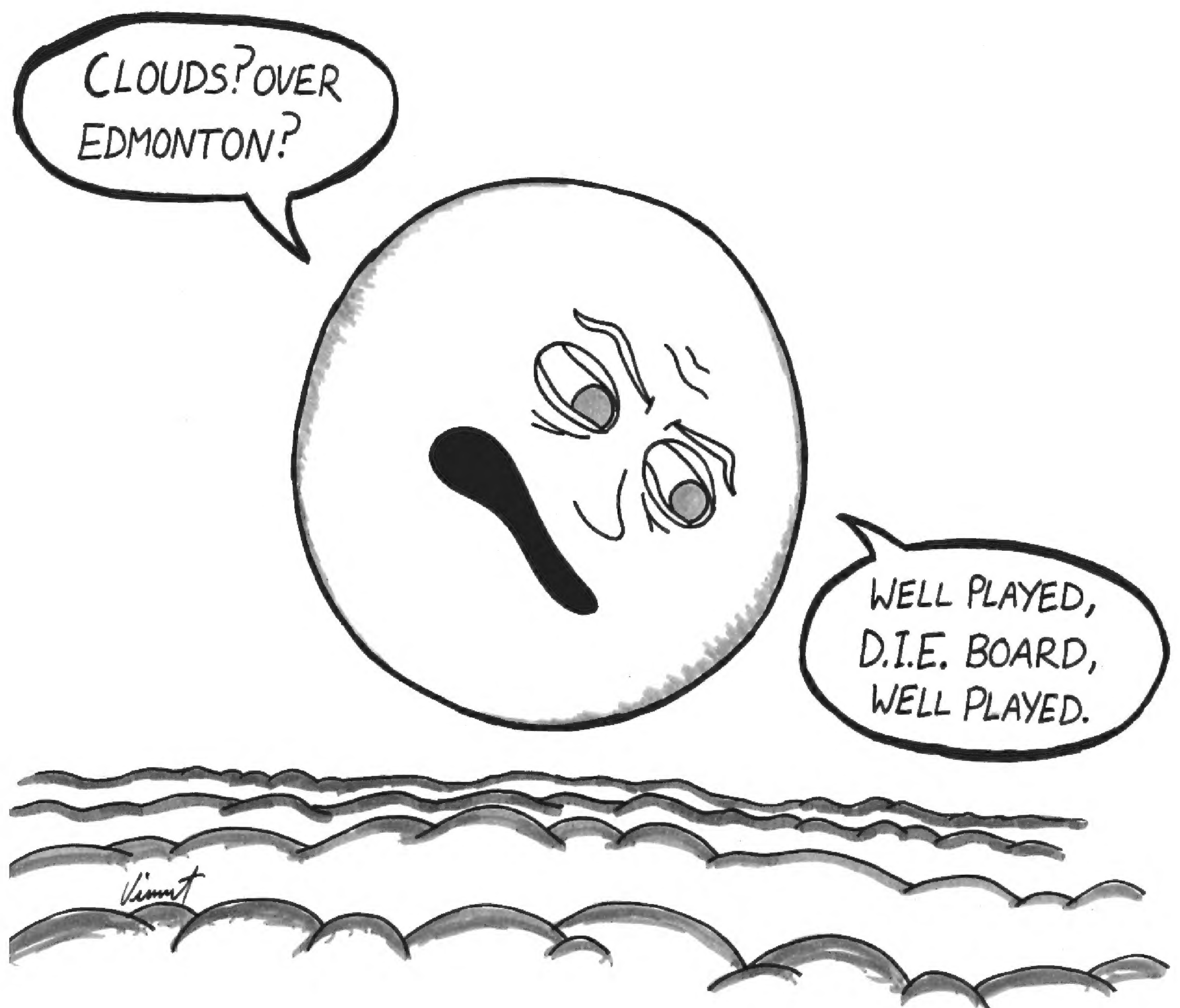
But other rejected apps make even less sense. Despite being a partner in Google's Nexus One smartphone launch, the app for the digital magazine company Issuu, which would allow for the display of newspapers and magazines on iPhones, was rejected a total of three times for undisclosed reasons. The company said on their blog that while they couldn't go into specifics, "sometimes even the very best efforts to stay open for everyone can shut you out," which may allude to Apple's notorious tendency to try to control content.

There's something to be said for free speech, and I'm not inclined to demand the removal of an app just because I find it offensive. I think Exodus International is a reprehensible organization, but they also have a right to their views. However, Apple has proven time and time again that they don't care much for free speech. The company has a policy of rejecting apps that criticize public figures. When confronted with the rejection of the app Freedom Time, which counted down the days until George W. Bush left office, Steve Jobs responded to the creators via email, saying, "even though my personal political leanings are democratic, I think this app will be offensive to roughly half our customers. What's the point?"

Apple would be better off if it refused to censor content, and cited the protection of free speech in response to any and all complaints. Failing that, their regulations for apps should be much more clear. As long as Apple insists on curating apps in order to protect users from content they might find objectionable, especially when their standards for doing so are so vague, they're going to run into trouble.

If the company is going to keep its censorship rules in place, then Exodus International should have their app removed — clearly a large number of iPhone and iPod Touch users have found it objectionable. If, on the other hand, they opt to allow the app, then they should revisit and relax their rules, and let people download whatever they want, instead of what Apple has judged to be appropriately inoffensive.

**ALIX KEMP**  
Opinion Editor



THE D.I.E. BOARD RULES  
THE "SUPAMOON" ILLEGAL.

ROSS VINCENT

### letters TO THE eds

#### University still needs more resources to deal with depression

RE: ("Dealing with depression," Alix Kemp, March 17)

The Gateway must be applauded for shedding light on the challenges and prevalence of depression on campus. It was encouraging to see the options and resources available to students communicated.

However, the picture was painted a bit too simply and brightly. I've suffered with depression for several years, to varying degrees, so I know. One of the first places I had the courage to visit was the University Health Centre (UHC). But after a brief consultation, they told me they were full. U of A's centre is among the most underfunded in the country, they said. Maybe that's something SU and GSA could work on changing.

The UHC did give me a list of places to visit, but they were all only available on a temporary basis. And they were mostly therapy providers without psychological or psychiatric qualifications.

In one case, I had the horror of being "treated" for several months by a "self-help" guru who tried to indoctrinate me into his religion and buy his nonsensical book. I went back to the UHC; they were still full.

Depression is hard enough to deal with, but it's harder still when

professional help is as scarcely available as it is. I've finally found some meaningful assistance, and am recovering, but it strikes me that for such a debilitating and common problem, we ought to have better and more accessible solutions.

For anyone facing depression, know that help can be found eventually. But it will take some will and patience to find it. The sooner you start looking, the sooner you'll be able to climb out of the hole.

[Editor's note: The Gateway generally has a policy of not publishing anonymous letters. However, we made an exception in this case, because we felt the message was relevant, and we understood the writer's possible reasons for not wanting to reveal his or her name.]

ANONYMOUS  
Science Graduate Studies

#### Five days for homeless completely overrated

I fail to see how having a sleepover in the business building equates with being homeless. How many homeless people have student IDs that entitle them access to a heated and guarded space? How many homeless have multiple sleeping bags? How many homeless people have friends taking breakfast orders for the next day? How many homeless draw straws to see who sleeps outside? None who I've seen or met.

To claim that this Five Days for the Homeless project is representative

of being homeless in Edmonton is a joke and an insult to the hardship the homeless face in this city.

Lose the IDs and the sleeping bags, and I might take you seriously. Go sleep in a back alley on 97th street in -20C weather, fend off the crack fiends, and dodge the cops. Go stand in line at the Mustard Seed for a meal.

Until these self-important weenies drop the comforts, this is nothing more than a glorified sleepover and an exercise in resumé padding.

ADAM SHAMCHUK  
Arts V

### from THE web

#### Chernobyl irrelevant to Alberta's nuclear future

RE: ("Nuclear power not worth the risks," Dan McKechnie, March 17)

In your editorial, you mention Chernobyl as an example of how dangerous nuclear power can be.

In truth, Chernobyl was caused by Soviet administrative problems and shoddy workmanship, not by any inherent flaw of nuclear power. Soviet engineers were too afraid to speak up about procedural and structural flaws due to a totalitarian power structure. As such, the engineers remained quiet, and the lapses in safety went unchanged. This directly led to the explosion on April 26, 1986.

A more apt comparison would be in comparing the safety of Alberta reactors to Three Mile Island. The reactor at Three Mile Island in New York State suffered a partial meltdown, but was able to be controlled through the multiple fail-safes and redundancies in place. As a result, when a partial meltdown began to occur, it was safely and efficiently stopped, with minimal damage.

The damage was, as stated by the Kemeny Commission Report, "there will either be no case of cancer or the number of cases will be so small that it will never be possible to detect them."

"The same conclusion applies to the other possible health effects." In other words, the plant performed spectacularly under adverse conditions.

Furthermore, Fukushima cannot be compared to Alberta. Alberta is a seismically quiet area; there is no chance of a 9.1 magnitude earthquake striking. However, it is certain that each tailings pond in Fort McMurray will cause damage to the environment; genetic mutations have been reported in wildlife around the area, as well as the duck deaths reported by Syncrude.

Nuclear power is the safest, most efficient method of power generation available to us currently, and should be implemented without hesitation in Alberta to serve our power generation needs.

"FINBARR TIMBERS"  
Via Internet

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 7



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# DIE Board's bad decisions causing strife for SUPA



RYAN  
BROMSGROVE

The Students' Union elections this year have been one colossal mess after another. First, we had only one contested race in the Executive and Board of Governors Representative elections. Then, that one race had to be postponed due to an error made by the former Chief Returning Officer, resulting in his resignation. And now, with only three days of campaigning left before the Students' Council election, the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board has determined that even though candidates were approved to campaign under a slate, this isn't allowed.

So once again, the image of the Students' Union presented to all those apathetic students, who they're so desperately trying to communicate and engage with, is an organization with no clue what it's doing. It's almost as if a group of mostly inexperienced students, sometimes not grown up enough to move out of residence, have been given control over a multimillion dollar organization through elections too plagued by apathy to guarantee quality — and have then proceeded to stumble blindly down 40 different paths without a DIE Board willing to make an effort to read the bylaws that govern it.

Although Bylaw 2000 states that “No candidate shall [...] endorse another candidate within his or her own race,” slates have been allowed in previous years — such as Students United for Progressive Action, which was allowed to run last March, sat this year on

council, and would have been an eight-person slate primarily in the Faculty of Arts this election. SUPA is still allowed to run, but only with one person per faculty. So not only do we face one more complication this election season, but the failure in earlier years to properly interpret Bylaw 2000 reveals a history of undiscovered stupidity. Though it should have been the responsibility of the candidates running with SUPA and the two-person Shared Science Platform slate to have read the bylaws themselves, they can't be fully blamed considering that the relevant section of the bylaw has been apparently ignored by the elections office and Students' Council.

Due to the precedent set in recent years, no punitive action has been taken against the slates, save that they had until yesterday evening to disband their intra-faculty branches, and remove all campaign material. The next question is whether this interpretation will actually mean anything this year. With effectively two days of non-slate campaigning for the candidates, versus more than a week's worth of poster exposure and social networking, anyone who bothered enough to cast an informed ballot will already associate the would-be slate candidates with the slate. Then, no matter how many of them get elected, there is nothing stopping them from forming their voting bloc in council anyway.

Of course, that would be underestimating the power of uninformed voters — which is significant and not entirely

avoidable. Those who might normally vote based upon the bracketed slate title coming after candidates' names will be left lost, alone, and confused.

Facing the pressure of figuring out what each candidate stands for individually, without having the option of knowing what several of them stand for together, the uninformed voter's only option will be to choose completely at random, which could lead to a union with many more lame errors down the road.

In the Faculty of Science this year, the informed voter must decide which seven of the sixteen candidates are worthy of a vote. In the Faculty of Arts, there are twelve candidates vying for six seats. Expecting students to have the time to investigate all of these people is legitimately a lot to ask of students, and this unending slew of election drama is unlikely to help.

I don't think it's too much to ask for a union that isn't making completely incoherent decisions at every turn. Every now and again is acceptable; the SU is only a collection of humans, after all. But this election season has been such a disaster that anyone paying attention has surely had their opinion of the SU lowered. The SU can spit back, as they always do, with righteous indignation and tales of all the hard-working people involved in their organization. And to an extent, they're right. There are many enthusiastic, committed, and hard-working people involved. It's a shame that they are overshadowed by a consistent stream of stupidity.

# Nuclear power

## Council attendance Charlie Sheen

## DIE board

## Cellphone contracts

## Federal elections

## Tim Hortons

## Alberta Party

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Hey Subway employees.. do you know what a hair net is?

What better way to demonstrate that your movement is not religiously motivated than to host a seminar about euthanasia and discuss the Christian perspective, and only the Christian perspective, at the end? Hats off to campus pro-life!

Dear Arts Department Advisors, you are just awful. I'm glad part of my tuition goes towards paying you to be useless.

My gripe is that I attended the University BEFORE you had this online! Great to see the Gateway strong and free. Use it, & engage in sharing ideas!

To the guy in Psych341. You are a 20-something male, not a 14 year old girl from the Valley. Remove like from your vocabulary! Like, ok?

You're so vain, you probably think this Three Lines Free is about you!

Why isn't Klingon offered as a foreign language?

Reality check to you people who complain about your fellow students not acting as though they belong in a place of "higher education"- this is the University of Alberta. Not Harvard. Get over yourselves.

Honestly, I would be WAY more likely to go to my 8am class if the cast of the fireman calendar were teaching, instead of this old crowd...

HUB-wide rave anyone?

Dear dirty pigs that think your going to pick up a chick by slapping her ass or grabbing her. Your methods are going to get you only one thing. Either a slap to the face or a kick the balls. Take your pick.

Dear Roommates, stop keeping all of your shit on the only counter we have in the kitchen. There is plenty of room in your cupboards, drawers and our pantry. Trust me, I've looked.

I shall tell you again. Just because you are talking in a different language does NOT give you permission to babble when the prof is speaking.

282 Days until Christmas, as of March 17th 2011. How I love Mariah Carey xmas jingles. soooo goood :D

what ever happened to the LRT driver who did morning announcements?

I walk "the wrong way" in HUB every single day, and I do it just to spite everyone who constantly whines about such a pointless issue. Yeah, suck it complainers!

Dear wrong way walking, asshole calling, idiot: I will not take responsibility for shoulder slamming you when you walk down the wrong way in HUB.

Skyping in public places = awkward for everyone around you. Stop it.

To the couple fooling around and not paying any attention: Annoying as you may be, I'm glad you're in my class, as we are marked on a curve.)

People - let others off the LRT BEFORE GETTING ON! It's the same thing as elevators!

So SU elections have parties now? Good job, assholes. You've ruined the system forever.

Iron ring on Saturday! Spend all morning talking about ethics and then spend all night drinking and doing unethical things. Nice.

Whoa, whoa. (ooh ooh) Whoa, whoa. (ooh ooh) Whoa, whoa. (ooh ooh) Winona Ryder.

If there is a federal election, please make a commitment to vote. Every voice does matter.

SUB couches have some really nice butt grooves.

im writing a novel "fuckfuckfuckfuck" ill call it, "Misery"

I'm looking forward to spring cause it means the end of Uggs. Right!??

The Gateway reserves the right to edit any submissions, as well as refuse publication of any submission it deems racist, sexist, hateful, libellous, or overtly offensive. The Gateway cannot guarantee that your submission will be used (but we'll try). Submissions should be 130 characters max (including spaces).



# Introverts face extra challenges in the workplace and world



LANCE MUDRYK

As a society, we try to be sensitive to the problems of others. As the centuries pass, the world is improving on its goal of fairness and equality for people, animals, and the environment. But there's still conflict when two different groups of people collide. One final conflict is the difference between introverts and extroverts, who sometimes have a very different quality of life.

Extroverts get the money, the sex, and populate most corporate CEO offices; as a society, we generally adore the attractive and outgoing. And these two qualities are connected — attractive people are more likely to be extrovert personalities since they are forced into social situations much more often than their more plain equivalents. While I was sitting on the bus reading recently, a cute girl was being chatted up by a different guy every third stop — all of them extroverts with the confidence to approach a total stranger and strike up a conversation. Speaking — whether it's asking someone out or dealing with a coworker — is a skill that takes practice.

We tend to like normal, well-adjusted, friendly people, and we take this bias with us wherever we go. Despite modern initiatives to create diversity in the workplace, there is an unconscious anti-introvert selection process. Institutions are rife with criteria demanding people with "good interpersonal communication skills." Sure, these are fine abilities to have, especially considering how many jobs require some social interaction, but we're over-emphasizing this desire to hire the "cool kids."

Many of the world's most talented people are introverts, and learned their craft through dedication to their work. But when we look at the hiring process, namely the infamous "in-person interview," the emphasis is not on what you know, but rather on how much you can make them like you. During the interview, the employer generally assumes that you have the skills already or will learn what you need as you go. Job interviews largely end up being about

how well you can present your personality to the world.

I'm not saying we need to coddle all the shy and awkward people, especially since the world isn't polarized into people who are the life of the party and those who are quiet shut-ins. Most of us fall somewhere in between.

Ultimately, we're responsible for marketing ourselves to other people. This means bathing, smiling, using good diction, dressing well, making eye contact, remembering good posture, having a strong handshake, wearing deodorant, and exercising. It's a long list, but they're talents you're forced to practise if you want a job, let alone friends.

**The world isn't polarized into people who are the life of the party and those who are quiet shut-ins. Most of us fall somewhere in between. Ultimately, we're responsible for marketing ourselves to other people.**

But the top leaders for institutions are rarely the most capable people; rather they're the ones who made the right connections along the way. Extroverts in power seem to demand respect regardless of qualification, while the less common introverts take these positions as necessary burdens. The introvert and extrovert may be equally qualified for the job, but the confidence alone for the extrovert would be enough to tip it into their favour. This should be a problem, the same way that if a company needed to choose between a man and woman of the same skill. Both should have the same chance.

It's a dicey issue. Not everyone can be accommodated. We already have to worry about racial and sexist discrimination, as well as against the disabled. Not all introverts need protection in the same way, and so at some point, it could become coddling. I'm alive and well today, and escaped high school with only a few insults. Nerds do far better once they escape secondary school, but sometimes it's clear who still has the advantage.

MORE LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

## Complaints about complaints about DIE Board complaints

RE: ("DIE Board messes with democracy," Alix Kemp, March 16)

The tone and the content of this opinion piece are unprofessional and completely inappropriate, and Alix Kemp owes the DIE Board an apology.

When you dig through the hyperbole, what you find is a difference of opinion about what's important in an SU election. Kemp thinks having an election with good voter turnout is more important than an equal playing field. The DIE Board thought the CRO's unfortunate failure to follow his own regulations called for a do-over, and tried to find a way to solve the problem that was fair to both the voters and candidates. Both positions are defensible. What isn't defensible is launching a full-scale smear job over this difference of opinion.

Kemp's most substantial complaint seems to be that the tribunes didn't bring a copy of Bylaw 2000 to the hearing. Yes, this was an oversight, but it hardly rises to the level of "shocking ineptitude," especially in the context of an election appeal that was scheduled on short notice. And strangely, Kemp also complains that the DIE Board didn't fully understand the implications of its decision because it overlooked a provision in the election bylaw — but then in the same breath, complains about how hard it is to decipher that "mess of confusing bylaws"! The DIE Board didn't write the "mess" of bylaws, and they were asked to make a decision in the middle of the chaos of election season, with little time to prepare or reflect.

Did the decision overlook some specifics of the bylaw? Sure. But there's nothing in DIE Board's ruling that justifies this hatchet job. Kemp tries to use this DIE Board decision as an example of why students have lost faith in the SU. I suggest that opinion pieces like this are a much better explanation for why students have little faith in the Students' Union: certain Gateway opinion writers, many of whom have a better grasp on a thesaurus than on the facts, spew over-the-top invective towards volunteers who are trying to do something good for the student body, leaving "regular" students with a dim impression of the organization. The Gateway likes to criticize those involved in the SU for losing perspective. But here, by using words better suited for an anonymous blog comment than a serious editorial, it is *The Gateway* that has lost perspective.

"RKS"  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) or delivered to SUB 3-04.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study.

was something to do with a goat, a jar of peanut butter, and your mom — with no clue as to what connects the three.

My open request to all bar and pub owners out there is: dial it down a bit. If you start noticing that your patrons are shouting at each other on a regular basis, that's a sign that you need to reign in your tunes. Otherwise, I'll have to take your sound system away in a burlap sack.

JORDAN CHING

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered, but we make no guarantees about property theft.*

### THE BURLAP SACK

It's Friday. You've had a tough week of midterms and essays, and you want to unwind with a few friends. You decide to hit up a pub for supper and drinks, and the night starts off really well. Until, of course, the person playing the music decides that it's time to crank it up to 11 — then it all goes to hell.

Suddenly, you have to shout at the person next to you, spraying them with beer and pieces of chicken wings, while they struggle to hear you over the din of whatever top-40 tripe the speakers are pumping out as loud as a jet engine.

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SUPPLIED: VANESSA HEINS

# PS I Love You, distortion

## musicpreview

### PS I Love You

*With Diamond Rings*  
Tuesday, March 22 at 8:30 p.m.  
Brixx Bar and Grill (10030-102 Street)  
\$15 at ticketmaster.ca and Blackbyrd

MADELINE SMITH  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Kingston duo PS I Love You (named for vocalist and guitarist Paul Saulnier's initials, and completely unrelated to the Hilary Swank romantic comedy) only have one possible volume: as loud as they can get. Saulnier's wall-of-sound guitar aesthetics, backed by Benjamin Nelson's methodical drumming, are distorted and layered so thickly that Saulnier's yelping wail of a voice often barely breaks through the noise. The density of the music is a conscious choice for Saulnier, whose guitar provides the band's fuzzy, lo-fi sound with a slightly harder edge.

"I put my guitar through a loud amp and sort of boost the bass, and it makes this all-encompassing massive sound that also has this kind of crunchy bite to it," Saulnier says. "I like it when the guitar stabs you in the face with its sound — that sounds brutal, but I like that."

PS I Love You began as a solo project for Saulnier, who added drums to the mix during the band's early days. But live performances still see him acting almost as a one-man band, as he juggles singing, playing guitar,

and operating a bass pedal organ with his feet.

Saulnier's primary focus, though, remains on his guitar. His metal-influenced shredding technique is one of the most distinctive features of PS I Love You, and provides a far more virtuosic show than you'll see from most of the band's musical counterparts in the Canadian scene.

**"I like it when the guitar stabs you in the face with its sound — that sounds brutal, but I like that."**

PAUL SAULNIER  
GUITARIST/VOCALIST, PS I LOVE YOU

"I think my technique sort of relies on the volume of my guitar amp. What I've worked on over the past few years — and this is going to sound flaky — but if the song is about particular feelings or stories, I just try to inject as much of that as I can into my guitar," Saulnier says. "And when you play really loud, it's really just on the brink of explosion, and that makes for a far more intense and enjoyable show."

Saulnier has developed this over the course of almost two decades, beginning his obsession — like every other kid with rock guitar aspirations — inspired by Jimi Hendrix. Once

he realized channeling the world's guitar idol was maybe not entirely realistic, though, he started searching for other ways to make his sound stand out.

"In all my research, I realized that the most important thing to the sound was like, massive amps that were hot-wired to be louder than they were supposed to be and turned up all the way," he explains.

"You barely even have to touch the guitar and it's already singing — it just knows. The guitar is such a unique instrument. You can really spend a lot of time with just a sonic palette, and you can sort of design it. It becomes almost like this psychic link with electricity. It's really cool."

The end result is a surprisingly big sound for a comparatively small band. And although the warped vocals among the thick tangle of other sounds might sometimes make it hard to understand what exactly is going on, Saulnier is confident that his creations speak for themselves.

"The end result, I guess, is this sort of powerful sound that is hopefully catchy," he says. "And hopefully sort of gets the feeling across that's in the song and makes people understand what's going on without knowing the words. I think, for some fans, it really works."

"I usually just rely on the songs a lot. That's pretty much it," Saulnier concludes. "And I like to freak people out with loud guitars, but that's nothing new."

# Pokémon is back with *Black & White* and it's super effective

## gamereview

### Pokémon Black & White

Developed by Game Freak  
Published by Nintendo  
Available on Nintendo DS

STEPHEN COOK  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Dog fighting, besides being illegal, is brutal, gory, and amoral. As a college-educated intellect, you want your blood sport to be good, clean fun. That's why you play Pokémon.

Maybe when you were a kid, it was about collecting them all. But back then, there were only 150 (plus Mew); now there are 649. There just isn't the time. Your tastes have also changed. The painful years of identity-confused adolescence and the simultaneous sexual frustration, followed by the onset of soul-crushing existentialism with the arrival of adult responsibility, have left you broken. The only way to cope is to unleash your fury (attack) on the colourful pixels of some smiling animal. That's why you play Pokémon.

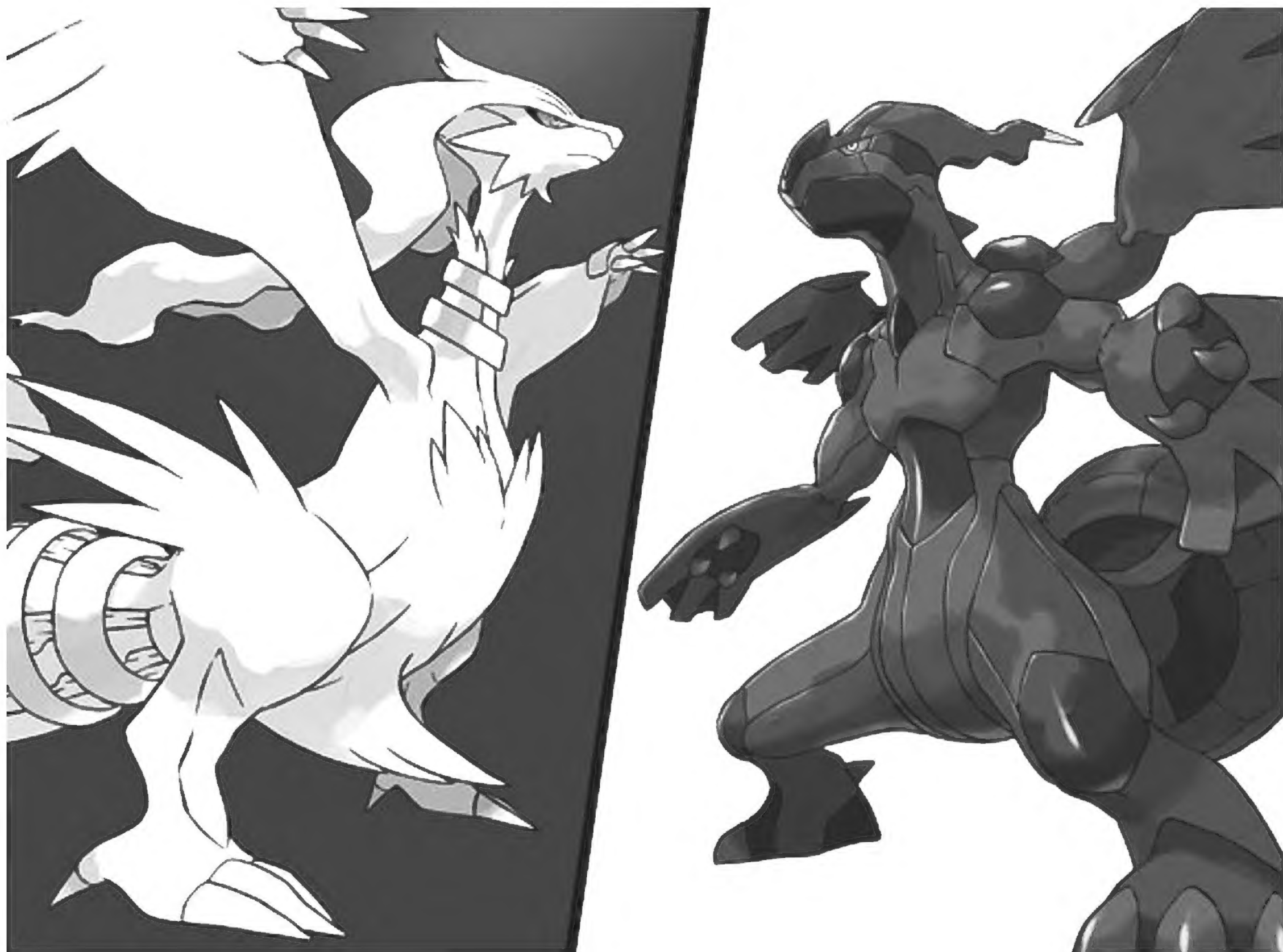
Or maybe you play because of the nostalgia. Whatever your reason is, everyone plays Pokémon (statistics have yet to be released). So how is the latest installment in the series? Will it satisfy our generation's collective macabre lust? Short answer: yes. Long answer: read on.

Set in the all new Unova region, unconnected to the previous game regions and loosely based on real-

world New York, *Pokémon Black & White* boasts a whole new 150 Pokémon to lead to the slaughter. Besides some underwhelming starters, including a clown-otter and a snake-type that has arms and legs (what?), the young guns are cute, fun, and maintain the same familiar aura of their predecessors. Who needs a horse with a flame mane when you can have an electric unicorn zebra?

**Every time there's a construction site in the game, some kind of Pokémon is working at it. And what do they get? Food, maybe shelter? That kind of trade-off is probably better known as a forced labour camp.**

The battling system is very much the same as it has always been, albeit now with gimmicky triple rotation battles. It has received a facelift, however; Pokémon will now move as they battle, and attacks are more animated than ever before. Even the camera jitters about. This all makes for a fluid, 3D feeling for the battle sequence which fully complements the fluid, 3D world. First introduced in *Pokémon Pearl & Diamond*, the 3D aspect of the travelling sequence is taken to a whole new



level, playing with perspective and actually making wandering around vast tracts of land somewhat enjoyable.

The story remains little more than an excuse to initiate one blood battle after another. It's the same old formula: boy/girl ejected from home to become vagrant that captures and battles animals for livelihood, while defeating evil organization on the side but with one slight alteration. The new antagonists of the game, Team Plasma, bring

a new spin to the old recipe by supposedly championing Pokémon liberation. The tone of this article aside, the rights of the Pokémon is a legitimate concern. Even if we were to forget the whole pitting-animals-against-each-other-in-death-matches thing, Pokémon are essentially slaves within the Poké-universe. Every time there's a construction site in the game, some kind of Pokémon is working at it. And what do they get? Food, maybe shelter?

That kind of trade-off is probably better known as a forced labour camp.

Pokémon has yet to undergo a true evolution (Nintendo may have made it hold an Everstone), but *Black & White* is a solid entry into the series. It maintains the same basic mechanics that has made Pokémon Nintendo's second most profitable franchise, while introducing a bevy of beauty marks. The prettiest game yet, it should impress Poké-fans both young and old.



# Limitless comes to the edge of its cinematic depth

## filmreview

### Limitless

Directed by Neil Burger  
Starring Bradley Cooper, Anna Friel,  
and Abbie Cornish  
Now Playing

JON GRIER  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Imagine using 100 per cent of your brain's potential to observe, remember, and learn for an entire day. Now imagine if there were a pill that let you do this every day. *Limitless* is a thriller that examines this smartest-man-on-earth scenario in a serious and realistic light.

Bradley Cooper plays Eddie, an unmotivated thirty-something at the end of his rope. His glory days are long over, his girlfriend breaks up with him, and he's living off the dregs of an advance paycheck from a book deal he hasn't even started yet due to writer's block.

But in a chance meeting with a sympathetic old friend, everything changes when he gets a mystery pill called NZT-48. Its consumption causes Eddie to organize his apartment, get a huge start on his book, and become confident and assertive. Everything seems to come easily to him — that is, until he wakes up the next morning.

Looking to get another fix, he visits his friend again, only to find him shot to death in a ransacked apartment. After doing his own search, he finds a bag containing dozens of the pills and decides to put his newly enhanced

abilities to use on Wall Street.

Robert De Niro co-stars as an energy tycoon who tries to make use of the prodigious young broker for a lucrative corporate merger. While De Niro doesn't exactly steal any scenes, he makes for a good foil to Cooper's quickly successful character as a man who's slowly clawed his way to the top of the corporate ladder. That this is the limit of De Niro's character seems like potential gone to waste.

Who does steal some of the movie is Andrew Howard's role as Russian loan shark Gennady, an intimidating mobster who worms his way into Eddie's life after taking some of his NZT by accident. Howard picks up the bad guy slack left behind by De Niro's

***Limitless'* main flaw rests in the fact that there's no main antagonist — just a few threatening adversaries amidst Eddie's dwindling NZT supplies. There's a lot of potential in this story that gets wasted during its execution.**

character while pressing Eddie for more of the drug.

But *Limitless'* main flaw rests in the fact that there's no main antagonist — just a few threatening adversaries amidst Eddie's dwindling NZT supplies. There's a lot of potential in this story that gets wasted during its execution. With only a few secondary conflicts the movie briefly juggles around, their resolutions don't pack as much of a punch.

Cooper is well cast, adept in his portrayal of the dual character of Eddie on and off NZT. While this is another aspect of the story not explored in depth, the issues of how the drug is affecting him in the short- and long-term are at least well expressed

through his acting.

The cinematography and visual effects definitely deserve praise as well, such as the fisheye effect used to simulate the user's change in perception right as NZT kicks in. Other tricks like jacking up the brightness or little animated effects during a scene where Eddie is writing or playing the piano provide a nice touch that further contrast the difference between mundane Eddie and limitless Eddie.

The movie exercises the errant belief that humans typically use only 20 per cent of their brain's potential. In that light, this is a thriller that only uses 80 per cent of its own. But if you can overlook its few flaws, *Limitless* might just exceed all expectations.



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HAIR HAS BEGUN TO  
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KAITLYN MENARD

## Super-powered artistry in an ordinary world

David Belke's ode to the birth of comic books brings a combination of storytelling and art to the theatre

### theatre review

#### Next Year's Man of Steel

Directed by John Hudson

Written by David Belke

Starring Ryan Cunningham, Mark Jenkins, Anna

Maria LeMaistre, and John Wright

Varscona Theatre (10329-83 Avenue)

Runs until April 3 at 7:30 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinées  
on Saturdays and Sundays

No shows on Mondays

\$10-26 at Tix-on-the-Square or at the door

CAROLE YUE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"What's so heroic about someone who is immune to bullets? That's just showing off."

With those words, David Belke's *Next Year's Man of Steel* challenges our love affair with the superhero mythos and exposes our myopia when it comes to heroism in our everyday lives.

The year is 1940 and the scene is New York City. Struggling under the yoke of the Great Depression and the Second World War, the American public finds solace in the comic book superhero. And with an eye to the low incomes everyone has, enterprising publishers scramble to feed this addiction without first understanding the reason behind America's latest mania.

Mark Jenkins and Ryan Cunningham play Everett Gardner and Simon Reed, two reluctant talents forced into an artistic marriage by the head of a publishing firm, Shelly Kurtzberg (John Wright). Despite an amusing lack of confidence in the profitability

of comic books, all parties are desperate to jump on the comic book bandwagon in order to eke out a life in the Depression, with Gardner writing stories and Reed supplying the drawings for Kurtzberg's money-driven demands.

**When it comes down to it, not everyone can stand up and respond when they hear a cry for help. For that, we still need heroes.**

Although the assignment is initiated in lieu of significant respect for the superhero archetype, Gardner and Reed approach the project with a marked earnestness, wanting to create a true hero the public will embrace. But the definition of a superhero is slippery, and it is through the course of their heated debate that the audience finds themselves asking the same questions as the play's characters, such as what makes a superhero heroic? Is it the risk-taking? Their ability to inspire awe? Is it worthwhile to admire someone who is only "super" because of innate super-abilities? Or is a true hero a normal person who is capable of accomplishing abnormal feats when placed under stress?

The introduction of Reed's wife Ramona (Anna-Marie LeMaistre) creates another twist in the storyline, making the viewer's perception of the characters' conflicts more tangible. Ramona poses as a source of conflict for both Gardner and Reed, but for very different reasons. In spite of the alternate universe they're trying to create, Ramona's presence constantly draws the duo back into the real world, where dilemmas such as carnal desire and late rent payments trump

the imaginary conflicts of comic book superheroes.

Jenkins and Cunningham manage powerful performances with subtlety. Echoing the play's sentiment, their portrayals are neither grossly likeable nor unlikeable, but simply human. All the actors demonstrate incredible comedic timing, doing justice to the immensely funny script. There are instances in which the 1940s New York affectation slips; but this is maintained so well throughout most of the play that it's only a minor distraction.

Director John Hudson mines the comic book motif for all it's worth, which will make even the most diehard comic fan wildly appreciative. A projection screen that forms part of the backdrop is used to show comic strips, usually depicting internal dialogue from one of the actors. One of the advantages of non-performed art is that artists retain the luxury of showing various viewpoints and actions without compromising stage time. Thus, Hudson's clever manipulation allows the scenes to flow smoothly while at the same time reinforcing the comic aesthetic.

There may be an initial sense of disappointment with the play's decision to focus on the creators of superheroes rather than the exciting world of superheroes themselves. Despite this, throughout the play, the audience is persuasively shown how dire reality can be, and how our lofty expectations of fictional superheroes can diminish the feats of a real hero. When it comes down to it, not everyone can stand up and respond when they hear a cry for help. For that, we still need heroes.

*Next Year's Man of Steel* offers a different brand of escapism. Rather than providing an actual escape, Belke's play gives us an alternative way of looking at our own mundane universe, so we may begin to see heroes in the everyday.



### album review

#### The Strokes

*Angles*  
RCA Records

DAVID GAULT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After a five-year break, a number of solo albums, and failed recording sessions, The Strokes are back. The New York rockers' long-awaited fourth album *Angles* reveals a welcome digression from the fun rock n' roll that brought them to international prominence a decade ago.

Aside from a couple of standouts, 2005's *First Impressions of Earth* represented a stalemate in the Strokes camp, with frontman Julian Casablancas flirting with progressive rock and his bandmates increasingly becoming frustrated by his dictatorship over their music.

Thankfully, Casablancas has relented and also sobered up, creating a united front full of swagger and enthusiasm not seen since 2003.

Their lead single "Under the Cover of Darkness" is an instant classic, with Albert Hammond Jr. and Nick Valensi exchanging hypnotic guitar riffs. Meanwhile, Casablancas shines with his Lou Reed-meets-Sam Cooke vocals. The opening track "Machu Picchu" has a reggae feel to the verse, which blends beautifully into the raw-but-catchy chorus reminiscent of their model "1251." However, "Two Kinds of Happiness" shows that Casablancas is listening to a little too much New Wave; it would sit nicely on *The Breakfast Club*

soundtrack, but not on *Angles*.

Past this anomaly, the inspirational "Life is Simple in the Moonlight" is not only the definitive song of the album, but also one of the best songs The Strokes have ever released. Penned by Casablancas, but clearly influenced by all band members, the verses have a slow Brazilian feel to them — undoubtedly on drummer Fabrizio Moretti's insistence. The anthemic chorus epitomizes the brilliance of a brotherhood that has put aside their differences to realize they are far greater as The Strokes, and are in it for the long run.

As Casablancas claims in the final line, "Don't try to stop us / Get out of the way!"





FILE PHOTOS: MATT HIRJI

## First-year Panda faced unexpected responsibility

With injuries mounting, guard Sally Hillier was forced into the starting line-up, a chance she didn't take for granted

### **basketball** **profile**

**Sally Hillier**  
Pandas Basketball

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

On a blisteringly cold night in the dead of an Edmonton winter, a dream was realized. When Sally Hillier's name was called in the starting line-up for the Court Panda's Friday evening game in January against the Winnipeg Wesmen, she jumped off the bench, took a deep breath to calm her nerves, and prepared for one of the most arduous weekends of her life.

Hillier never expected to be standing on the court for the opening tip this season, let alone run the team's offence in a two-game divisional series against the Wesmen. But just a few days earlier, two of her teammates had been scratched from the line-up due to injury and the responsibility of directing the Green and Gold from the point-guard position had fallen squarely onto Hillier's shoulders.

Every eye in the Main Gym that weekend was focused on her. She felt out of place. Her mind was consumed by thoughts of failure.

"It was just a kind of overwhelming weekend for me," Hillier said, reflecting on the series. "I knew a couple days leading up to it that I'd be in the starting line-up, but it was really tough to get [my teammates] trust on the court. I didn't really know the team that well. I knew that everybody liked me and everybody respected me, and it's not like people do it on purpose, but I think everybody was questioning me, like 'Who's this new first year girl? What can she bring?' It was really nerve-racking for me to feel that pressure."

By the end of the weekend, Hillier had played a marathon 79 minutes to claim 24 points and

four assists, leading her team to a series split against the Wesmen while keeping the Pandas' dreams of the post-season alive.

Pandas captain and Canada West all-star Marissa Haylett gave Hillier a hug after the final buzzer sounded. Hillier's coach, Scott Edwards, applauded his first-year guard's stamina on the court, calling the weekend her 'coming-out party.' Hillier finally belonged on the team. But it wasn't until weeks afterwards that the momentous occasion sunk in for her.

"I never really thought of it as anything special and I never thought about the amount of minutes that I had played. [...] It was definitely a huge step for me, and I'm sure everybody else was thinking 'This is Sally's big chance.' But I just wanted to play as hard as I could," Hillier explained. "But it just kind of hit me afterwards. I was just like, 'Wow. That was ridiculous.' But like everything, I just wanted to take it in stride."

Taking things in stride has become Hillier's mantra ever since arriving on campus in September. Overwhelmed and longing to return

back to her home in Surrey, B.C., Hillier faced a steep learning curve during her first semester in Edmonton. She struggled to come to terms with the expectations placed on her as a student-athlete at the U of A.

She nearly failed out of a class and had a difficult time finding playing time on a roster saturated with experienced players familiar with the lofty expectations that the Pandas' coaching staff places on their athletes. Forced to the sidelines and having difficulties dealing with the physical style of play at the varsity level, the 5'6 guard only logged 46 minutes of competitive play while spending four complete games on the bench during her first semester with the Green and Gold.

As Hillier admits, the frustrations of not getting the chance to see the court transferred over to her commitments in the classroom. But when she was given more responsibility on the court in her second semester, Hillier committed to a rejuvenated focus on academics as well. Before heading to practice Hillier, spent hours with her head buried in her course material.

"You have to study a lot. I wasn't really prepared this year. But I realized later that school is so important for everything that I do. You have to be engaged in classes to play basketball. I learned that the hard way. But I guess that's what you're supposed to be doing at university," Hillier said with a laugh. "I've been graced with a huge opportunity to play basketball while going to school. That's just a fact. I'm here because I want to meet those challenges. You just have to do what you have to do."

Hillier's second semester at U of A marked a shift in her performance both on and off the court. Alongside her triumphs in the classroom, Hillier provided the backbone for the Green and Gold's unexpected success this season. Following her momentous weekend in January against the Wesmen, Hillier averaged 10.7 points and 30 minutes per game to lead the Pandas' charge into the post-season. It was only after a disappointing loss to the St. Francis Xavier X-Women in the regional finals that Hillier's whirlwind athletic successes this season could be stopped.

Hillier has made a lasting impact on the team. And while she's proud of her achievements, Hillier remains acutely aware of the long journey ahead of her if she wants to establish herself as a premier varsity basketball player in the future.

With several veteran players poised to return from injury, Hillier will probably not get to hear her name in the starting line-up again for a while. But for now, Hillier is content that her dream of playing in the line-up for the Pandas has been attained. And when the time comes for her to return, she'll be poised and ready to go.

"This year has just been really crazy. I always think that everybody has to pay their dues and I just thought it was weird that I haven't really put in the time on the team to be in that position, but I was in that position this year. I'm almost not deserving of it. I was just thrown in there. I haven't paid my dues yet."

**7.5**

*Average points per game Hillier scored this season*

**133**

*Total minutes Hillier played in the first 18 games of the season*

**355**

*Total minutes Hillier played in the last 11 games of the season*



# The victories that inspire the underdog to keep fighting



SPORTS  
STAFF

Group  
Commentary

With March Madness already in its second week, many of *The Gateway* sports staff's brackets have been broken beyond all repair. 'How can 12 upsets happen in just one week?' we ask. But the unexpected happens all the time in the world of sport. Here's a list of our favourites.

## Max Lutz

### Y.E. Yang's 2009 PGA Championship

For the better part of the last decade, Tiger Woods was unstoppable. The winner of countless majors and the most dominating player to ever hit the links, defeating Woods in a major was one of the most difficult tasks to accomplish on the PGA Tour.

Enter Y.E. Yang, a virtual unknown on the global golf stage. Ranked 110th in the world at the time and absent in six of the previous seven majors, Yang's inclusion in the 2009 PGA championship was more of a formality than an invitation to become a contender.

However, after the first three days of competition in one of the most challenging golf tournaments of the year, Yang managed to put himself in contention to win it all. But it is still seemed like Yang's dreams would inevitably be crushed by Tiger's rocket-launcher game off the tee. Woods was still perched atop the leader board heading into the final day of competition.

With a 14-0 record in majors when leading after 54 holes, Woods was expected to tidy up the course and proclaim yet another victory. However, what happened on that Sunday was something that nobody would have expected.

Displaying the determination and composure of the game's greatest, Yang struck the golf ball with phenomenal precision and performed exquisitely on the putting green to seize the tournament championship, capitalizing on Tiger's mediocre Sunday.

In another chapter in golf's great legacy, a 37-year-old from South Korea proved once again why the players go out there and play — it's anyone's game.

## Trevor Mak

### Belarus takes down Sweden in Salt Lake City Olympics

Among many upsets that have occurred in the game of hockey over the past decade, one event

stands out: the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

On February 20 of that year, the Swedish National Ice Hockey Team took on Belarus. Going undefeated in the preliminary rounds of the tournament and stacked with NHL all-stars, the Swedes were the heavy favourites in the quarter-final match.

Despite being more than outmatched, the Belarusians held the advantage in terms of passion on the ice. The team scored three goals in their first 18 shots of the game, managing to stay tied with Sweden right up until the dying moments of the third period.

That's when the hockey world was turned on its head. With just over two minutes remaining in the game, unknown Belarus player Vladimir Karpat, blasted a slapshot from 70 feet away that glanced off a Tommy Salo's helmet and found its way into the net. It was the game-clinching goal and the Belarusians leaped into the air, celebrating their stunning victory.

It was a heartbreaking loss for the Swedes. But as humiliating as it was to watch for Swedish fans, the game is now considered one of the greatest upsets in sports history.

## Justin Bell

### Music City Miracle

Let me set the stage: it's the AFC wildcard game in 2000, with the Buffalo Bills facing off against the Tennessee Titans. With a mere 16 seconds left, Buffalo was up by one and a simple kickoff away from heading deeper into the playoffs. Then, the unimaginable happened.

Buffalo punter Steve Christie kicked the pigskin high and short in an effort to give his team a better chance at burning the clock and eliminating their opponent's chances at pulling off a miracle punt-return. The Bills' best-laid plans would backfire.

Titans fullback Lorenzo Neal would pull down the kickoff and hand it off to tight end Frank Wycheck, who threw a lateral pass across the field to a teammate for an open 75-yard touchdown run.

While it looked like a forward pass, it was called a lateral on review, and the Titans would ride their momentum all the way to a SuperBowl appearance. The Bills, on the other hand, would wallow in mediocrity for the next decade, devoid of playoff appearances ever since.

## Matt Hirji

### The Curse reversed

The year 2004 was quite a time for North

American sports. The Detroit Pistons overcame the odds to beat the L.A. Lakers in the NBA Finals; the Toronto Argonauts won the Grey Cup, and Lance Armstrong claimed his record-breaking sixth Tour de France title.

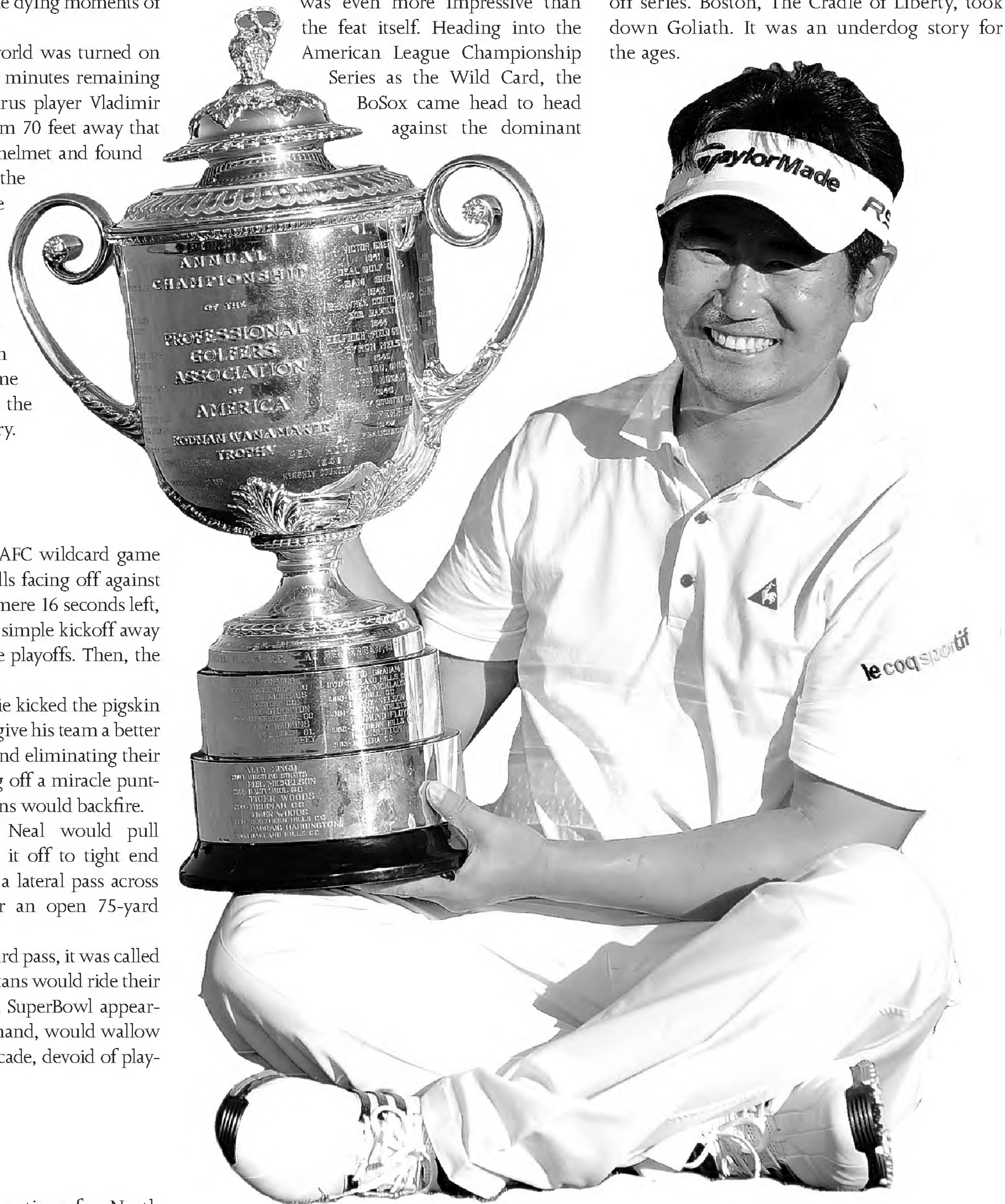
But in the rainy backdrop of mid-October, something astonishing happened in Massachusetts. The Curse of the Bambino was finally broken.

After an 86-year-long drought, the Boston Red Sox claimed their first World Series championship. But the way that the curse was reversed was even more impressive than the feat itself. Heading into the American League Championship Series as the Wild Card, the BoSox came head to head against the dominant

pinstripe Yankees, a team that has been despised in Beantown since they stole Babe Ruth in 1923.

Facing elimination in the ninth inning of game four, Boston's Dave Roberts valiantly stole a base and eventually found a way to tie the game on an RBI single — a turn of events that eventually led to a valiant four-game comeback to win the divisional series and launch the club to a World Series Championship.

The Boston Red Sox are still the only team ever in Major League Baseball to ever come back from a 3-0 deficit in a seven-game play-off series. Boston, The Cradle of Liberty, took down Goliath. It was an underdog story for the ages.



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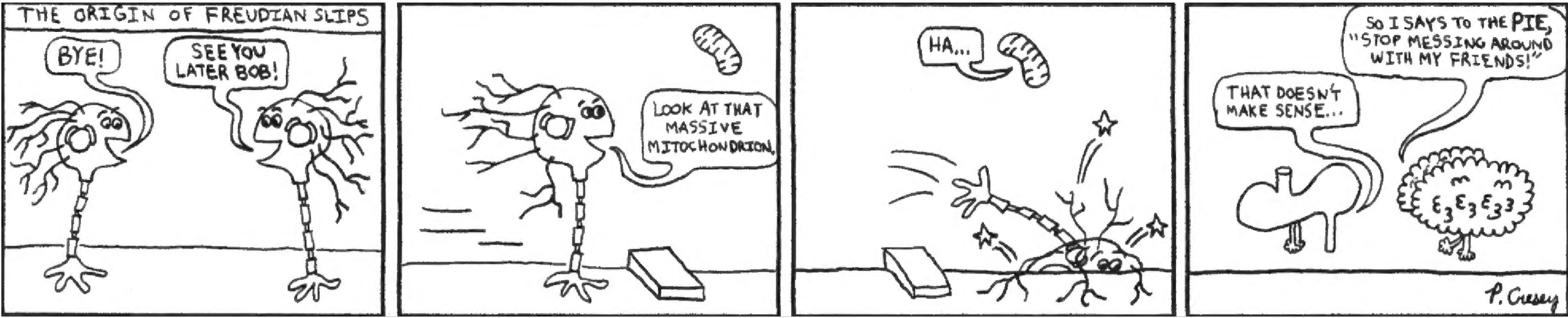
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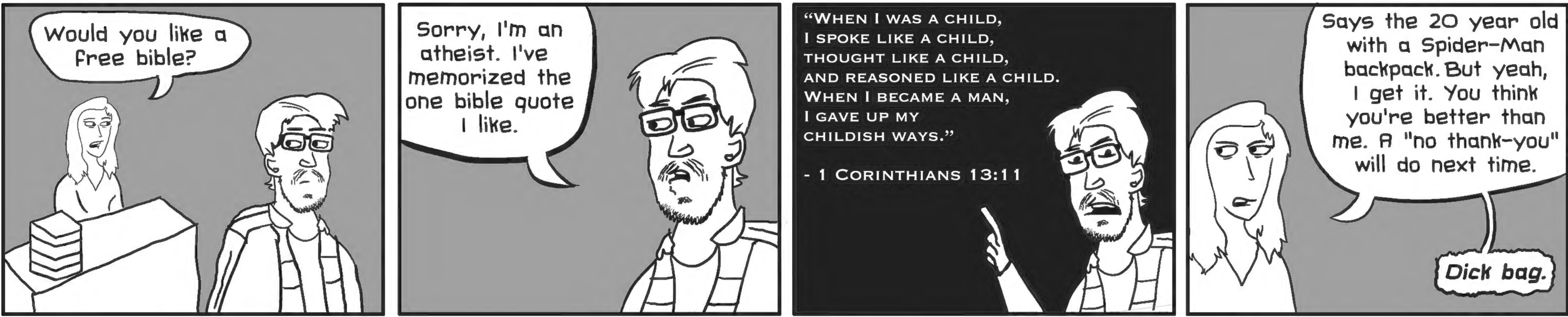
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6. Samplers
7. Condiments
8. Snacks
9. Men named "Morgan"
10. Oprah tickets
11. The LRT
12. Motorcycle sidecars
13. Giraffe drawings by children
14. Heroin you find in your taco
15. Mr. Rogers' sweaters
16. Ice
17. Supermoons
18. Public discourse
19. Stealing (from morality)
20. Birthday sex
21. Birthdaytown, aka Smoky Lake, AB
22. Frosty
23. Fallin'
24. Libya and/or SUPA

Sudoku

		8		7		6	
9							1
	2					4	9
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3	1					8	7
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6		4				5	
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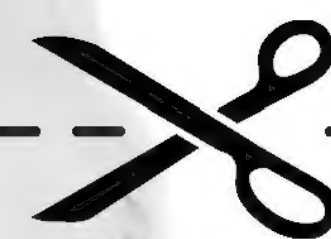
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But who exactly does this money help? Here are the stories of two student refugees whose lives have been changed by the program you help fund.



## MOHAMED SALAT (SOMALIA)

WRITTEN BY ALI CHURCHILL

Like so many students who come to Edmonton from warmer climates, Mohamed Salat was warned of the city's harsh winters. But initially, Edmonton's famously cruel winters were a disappointment.

"When it first started to snow, there was not that kind of big snow, they were only small things. I thought [it] had started, I thought that the temperatures were way down. So I had to wear my very big jacket that had to be worn for -30°C or something like that and then when I went to class, it was very hot. I was so uncomfortable."

Salat laughs at the memory, now wiser to Edmonton's climate. Dressed in a thick black coat and jeans, he looks like any other student on campus. He takes the bus to class with a backpack stuffed with books and a ringing cellphone in his pocket.

But Salat's journey to the University of Alberta is anything but typical. He's one of more than 60 refugees brought over each year by World University Service Canada (WUSC) to study at a Canadian university.

Salat was born in Kismayu, Somalia around 1985. He's unsure of his exact date of birth, and because of this he had to fill out extra paperwork to get into the WUSC program. In 1991, his life was disrupted by the fall of Somali dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. With the collapse of Barre's 20-year rule, various tribal factions began vying for control of the government. The fighting spread from the Somali capital of Mogadishu to Salat's childhood home.

"There was a fight over my town, where I was born. Where we were living was attacked by armed men, militia. They targeted my family. They took the animals and then my father escaped because they would have killed him."

Left with three young children and under constant threat from the militia, the rest of the family were forced to flee. They wandered without food or water, under constant threat of attack from militia, before finding other refugees.

Salat and his family made it to the Somalia-Kenya border in 1992 after running from armed militia for three months. He says he has no clear memories of those months, but his mother has told them of the hardships.

"Without food or water, some people were even feeding on the trees. There was nothing to eat."

The conditions were so harsh that Salat's younger sister died.

"She just got sick. We never know what she was suffering from — she got sick for some days and later on, she just passed away."

The Kenyan government sent Salat's family to Dabaad, where the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) had set up three refugee camps. They were settled into the Hagadera camp where they were given a tent to live in and a small food stipend that was distributed every 15 days. As the fighting in Somalia intensified, more and more refugees poured in and the food supplies shrank.

"People started suffering from malnutrition, diseases related to malnutrition like tuberculosis and these kind of diseases," Salat explains.

But the fighting between the tribes had not been left behind in Somalia, and this again put Salat and his family in the middle of a hostile situation.

"After more people came to the camp, there was tribal tension between the people. Some people got guns — I don't know from where — and they started killing each other. Women were raped when they would go out and look for firewood, [...] Even inside the camp, there were attacks by unknown people. They raped women, they killed men."

In 1995, the United Nations, along with the Kenyan government, introduced schools to the Dabaad camps and slowly, the atmosphere began to change. Tribal tensions began to ease, according to Salat, and interactions between various groups began to spring up. Even inter-tribal marriages in the camps started to take place.

Life in the camps improved with the opening of the schools, but it was still far from an ideal situation and Salat often went to school hungry. With his mother's encouragement and his own motivation, Salat studied hard and graduated with high marks, enough to qualify him for a scholarship through WUSC. But this still resulted in an intense selection process. After a round of interviews and an exhilarating trip to Nairobi, Kenya's capital — which was Salat's first time outside the camp since his arrival — he got the news of his placement at the U of A in May 2009.

"I had to talk to a friend who lived in Nairobi, to just google what the University of Alberta looked like."

His family had grown to include 11 children since their arrival in Hagadera after his father found them at the camp. Despite Salat's excitement about coming to Canada to study, he describes leaving his family and friends behind as difficult.

"My mother was crying. But actually, deep inside her heart, she knew that I would be leaving and doing something very constructive."

Salat arrived in Canada on August 22, 2010, after sharing a stressful flight with a friend, another sponsored student who was headed to Grant MacEwan University.

"At the airport, I was received by the local committees of WUSC [from the] U of A. I started being happy at that time because on the airplane, I was getting relief from the stress and terror of the journey. I was feeling lonely, missing my parents and young siblings, but then I had some kind of company, moral support from the WUSC club."

The WUSC group helped Salat settle into his room in HUB Mall, showing him around campus and the city, as well as helping him get used to his new lifestyle both socially and academically. He had difficulty in his first few weeks on campus as he adjusted to the new course loads. Even the accents of his new professors proved somewhat difficult for him to overcome.

But through hard work and the motivation of his family back home, Salat was able to push through the first few difficult months in Canada, and is now enrolled in his second year of the Mathematics and Economics program in the Faculty of Science.

Salat hasn't seen his family in two years, and won't be able to see them for another three due to restrictions on his permanent residency requirements. But the camps are never far from Salat's thoughts and he, along with other refugee students at Canadian universities, started Somali Students for Refugee Students. They've been able to send money back to their families, sometimes enough to help other students buy textbooks and even employ teachers at the camps.

"Education can improve the living standard of someone. It can elevate someone. I was just a child who could not even afford to buy food [...] But I came from that small, prison-like camp to this, one of the most prosperous countries in the world," says Salat. "It can make someone realize their dreams."

**"There was a fight over my town, where I was born. Where we were living was attacked by armed men, militia. They targeted my family. They took the animals and then my father escaped because they would have killed him."**

**- Mohamed Salat**

**"I feel I am judged based on what I do [in Canada], which is what I didn't have when I left home. That's the kind of thing I left behind, and there's nothing I would trade."**

**- Wubshet Kassa**

## WUBSHET KASSA (ETHIOPIA)

WRITTEN BY SCOTT FENWICK

When Wubshet Kassa looks back at his time at the University of Alberta, he still remembers his first impressions of Edmonton, a city where the streets appeared empty, with not a soul in sight.

Kassa, who grew up in the south of Ethiopia, knew to expect snow when coming to Edmonton, but not much else. But after a WUSC volunteer picked Kassa up from the airport, one of the first things he noticed was that nobody was walking outside.

"The first question I asked her was, 'Where's everybody?'" he says. "In Ethiopia, people are walking outside, but I didn't know that most people drive instead of walk here. So that's what she told me — everybody's inside. That was my first impression. I was struck to see nobody walking around, and not seeing just a soul on the street was striking for me."

The snow followed shortly. He arrived in August 1992, two weeks before school started that year. Two days after Kassa touched down in Edmonton, the city experienced its first August snowfall in decades. But although he experienced a cold welcome to Canada, Kassa was at least safe from the political instability he experienced in Ethiopia — just days before, he had been living in a refugee camp for more than a year.

Shortly after a rebel movement overthrew the local government in 1991, he fled Ethiopia out of fear of his own safety.

Leaving his family behind in Ethiopia, Kassa travelled south to the neighboring country of Kenya with two friends. He would spend the next 15 months with 10,000 other refugees in a former military camp designed to fit 2,000 people. He says that living in the camp, located just outside of Nairobi, was one of the most difficult times of his life. He describes his 15 months in the camp as idle time.

"I don't even remember doing anything valuable, because there wasn't anything valuable," he says. "In general, the desperation was very, very hard. And if you have no hope of either going back or going somewhere — for most people, it was pretty tough. I was okay because I had considered all these options before I left Ethiopia. But it was tough. It was one of the toughest places I've ever been."

Coming to Canada was difficult, too. In Kenya, he knew that if he wanted to go back home, it was a two-day car ride away. Getting home from

Canada was nearly impossible, given the distance and cost.

"The toughest part was adjusting with the whole situation here in Canada," he says. "Coming to Canada, learning the food, learning the culture, making friends, and just not going anywhere during holidays when the rest of the students were going home [...] was pretty tough."

Kassa made friends with a handful of international students, including others who were at the U of A because of WUSC. However, he says that he typically didn't mesh well with others in his Environmental and Conservation Sciences program, citing his timid tendencies. He also had trouble understanding the accent of one of his professors, who was from the southern United States. He remembers being the only person in the room not laughing when the professor made jokes.

Although he was 28 years old when he started studying at the U of A, the only time Kassa felt conscious of his age was when doing group projects. He typically gravitated toward older students because he felt that they understood where he was coming from, given his inexperience with Canadian customs.

Kassa came to the U of A with his first year fully funded. Tuition was taken care of and he had a few hundred dollars of spending money every month for rent in HUB Mall and food. He also remembers that some WUSC volunteers would go out of their way to make him feel welcome, such as inviting him to their homes for dinner or giving them presents during Christmas.

"I was pretty lucky, I would say, to be able to get that opportunity because I didn't have any other way to come here without that opportunity. I'm very indebted to WUSC. Everything I have become is because of that. I'm very glad I had that opportunity."

Thinking about his experience as a student at the U of A, Kassa says that although he was still uncertain about his future upon graduation in 1996, the experience he received because of WUSC helped him greatly. Today, he works as an environmental conservation officer for Environment Canada in Vancouver. This August will mark 19 years since he arrived in Canada.

"In general, I can't tell you [that there] is one thing I really did well at the end of my schooling at the U of A, but there were so many little things



that were the start of a good foundation, I would say," he says.

When Kassa first came to Canada, he didn't know what to expect, and there were many different ways he needed to adjust. He initially planned to go back home after finishing his degree, but decided to stay in the country after his four years at the U of A, having gained a large

appreciation for Canada.

"I feel I am judged based on what I do, which is what I didn't have when I left home. That's the kind of thing I left behind, and there's nothing I would trade. My coming here was a good decision. In general, I have a greater appreciation of Canada and Canadians, and I'm glad to be here."